Title: Need to safeguard the interests of workers engaged in Coir industry of Kerala - Laid.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHAN (CHIRAYINKI) : The coir industry in Kerala is facing a very serious crisis. The present tariff policy is very much detrimental to this cottage industry giving employment to nearly 5 lakhs of women workers in the coastal areas of Kerala. The Central Government had stopped all subsidies given to the industry and also the contribution to their welfare fund. The workers have declared a strike because of starvation. I request the Central Government to take urgent steps to save this ancient cottage industry from ruin.